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volume of which has been published since this monograph was written; for Percival records that on April 1, 1730, Oglethorpe spent more than three hours of conversation in explaining "his" project, and suggests no one else in connection with its authorship.

Percival, better known as the Earl of Egmont, was so completely won to the charitable project that it became one of his chief concerns. His copious diary is accordingly sprinkled with items concerning it, many of which are quite freshly illuminating. They tell, for example, that the number of debtor prisoners liberated in pursuance of the parliamentary act of 1729 was estimated at ten thousand; that the location first contemplated for the colony was in the West Indies; that the issue of the charter was delayed for many months by the king's personal dislike for some of its provisions; and that the first embarkation of settlers was sent forth when the funds of the trustees amounted to no more than two thousand pounds, despite the advice of the experienced Lord Carteret that a sum five times as great would be necessary for any assurance of success.

Aside from its Georgia data, Percival's diary contains such a quantity of substantial matter upon English polities and society that its publication is an event of signal importance.

The colonization of North America. 1492-1783. By Herbert Eugene Bolton and Thomas Maitland Marshall. (New York: The Macmillan company, 1920. 609 p. \$4.25)

The present work on colonization of North America marks a distinct departure in the production of texts in American history. It was prepared, so the preface states, "in response to a clear demand for a text written from the standpoint of North America as a whole, and giving a more adequate treatment of the colonies of nations other than England." Such a text would have been impossible a generation earlier because of the absence of any demand and the impossibility of finding an author sufficiently equipped to undertake it. It is significant that the historians to do the work should be found in the institutions on the western rim of the continent and, therefore, most out of touch with the hitherto dominant provincialism of the Atlantic coast communities.

The conception of a text based upon continental development on two widely sundered ocean fronts is distinctly a product of our twentieth-century experience and international alliances. It is the very antithesis of that American insularity which has been the subject of remark of European critics of our manners and morals for over a century. Now that we have come into our full North American heritage with a Panama canal to operate and project on two ocean frontages, and far-sundered territories like Alaska and the Philippines to defend, it is fit and proper

for our historians to plan histories and to prepare popular texts that describe what has taken place and express the change that has come in our national territorial outlook.

It is not at all remarkable that in this new volume under consideration nearly one-fifth of the material deals with the Spanish colonies and their relations with the French and the English. As Dr. Bolton has stated more than once, we have unduly neglected the part of Spain in the history of America and underestimated its contribution to the actual colonial status in the new world during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Furthermore, the new interest that is at present being manifested in South America and in the Spanish language makes it quite necessary that scholars turn their attention to a more careful study of the Spanish foundations of the new republic south of us. Undoubtedly this increased interest in Spanish culture now being manifested in our institutions of learning is closely connected with the marked commercial activities between ourselves and our South American neighbors. But whatever its source, the trend is undoubtedly permanent and will express itself in a great variety of historical works bearing on different phases of Spanish history.

European students of history will welcome this departure from our earlier form of writing as giving them an opportunity to study as a group all the new states that have developed here since colonization. When we can enlarge this idea so as to present the western hemisphere in a single study we shall have a history which may fairly supplement the works on European history as a whole which are so useful to students in both the special and general fields. Our recent international contacts and policies make it imperative that we abandon the self-centered type of history writing and attempt something on a somewhat more generous and catholic basis. If the great war has been of service to us it is perhaps in that we have somewhat enlarged our horizon and have begun consciously to fit ourselves into the larger international scheme of things. This new volume of history appears to be one of the many indications that we are awakening to a truer realization of our national relation to the larger community responsibilities and points of contact.

Another excellent feature of the volume is its admirable compression of over-expanded chapters in our national history. To find room for the new material the older discussions were carefully examined and analyzed with a view to economy of space. The result is very gratifying, for there is evident in the new product a precision and clarity as unusual as it is refreshing. With the added space gained it was then possible to introduce the new material without visible crowding and with no loss of momentum. In reading through this work and going over its general plan and method of presentation one is irresistibly reminded of Franklin's

comment on the French revolution, "*Ca ira*, it goes." The best test of a successful work is, after all, the ability of its author to marshal his details and to move from one conclusion or demonstration to another in an orderly manner. This is what the work on North American colonization does through every chapter, leaving the reader with a clear conception of one of the most complicated phases of American history. In point of general construction the work is admirably adapted to class use. The maps are not all new but each is exactly suited to the needs of that portion of the text it is designed to illustrate. The bibliographical notes are well selected for actual use and the index is especially well arranged. Altogether this new venture is well adapted at every point to convince and persuade a large and influential constituency of scholars and general readers that its methods are fully justified by results and that a new field for scholarship has definitely been opened for future work.

O. G. LIBBY

The Illinois country. 1673-1818. By Clarence Walworth Alvord. [*Centennial history of Illinois*, volume I] (Springfield: Illinois centennial commission, 1920. 523 p.)

The first volume of the *Centennial history of Illinois* was assigned to Dr. Alvord as the editor of a remarkable series of volumes including a mass of original documents bearing on the early history of the Illinois country. With the production of the present work the author brings to a close a piece of historical research that has placed him among the foremost historians of the middle west.

Histories of single states have multiplied in recent years, but seldom has the initial volume of a state history been produced under such favorable auspices as has this one. The author has been associated with historical research for so many years that he has built up at his university a historical seminar of unusual quality and one the graduates of which have each made valuable contributions in the field of research. What must be to Dr. Alvord one of the most gratifying features of this present piece of work is the fact that many of those who gave him the most valuable assistance were those whom he had himself trained in research and without whose aid his labors must necessarily have been very much prolonged. Seminar collaboration at its best is by no means common and the author is certainly to be congratulated upon being able to focus so successfully the finest product of his years of teaching upon the difficult problems of research.

In compressing into the compass of a single volume the mass of material already assembled and published in earlier works, the author has never lost sight of his subject. He has, also, avoided producing merely a learned treatise; on the contrary, every effort has been made to interpret and present the pre-state history of Illinois for the general reader as well